
TEXAS RACING COMMISSION
HORSE RACE DATE CALENDAR COMMITTEE
Meeting Report

Department of Public Safety
Austin, TX

September 1, 2010
10:30 a.m.

Representatives from the horsemen, breed registries, Texas horse tracks, staff from the Texas Racing Commission and various members of the public attended the meeting led by Commissioners Ronald Ederer (committee chair), Ann O'Connell and Scott Haywood. The following were introduced:

- Charla Ann King, Executive Director of the Texas Racing Commission
- Sammy Jackson, Racing Commission Deputy Director for Wagering and Racing Review
- Howard Phillips, Manor Downs
- Bryan Brown, Retama Park and the Austin Jockey Club
- Andrea Young, Sam Houston Race Park (SHRP) and Laredo Race Park
- Drew Shubeck, Lone Star Park (LSP)
- Sally Briggs, Gillespie County Fair
- Karen Utecht, Texas Paint Horse Breeders
- Rob Werstler, Texas Quarter Horse Association
- Marsha Rountree, Texas Horsemen's Partnership
- Dave Hooper, Texas Thoroughbred Association
- Ed Wilson, Texas Arabian Breeders Association

After introductions, Commission staff laid out the race date requests made by the tracks. Staff also described several alternative plans, including one developed by staff, for race dates.

Members of the racing industry offering testimony:

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| • John Roark, Temple, Texas | • Lewis "Tooter" Jordan, New Braunfels, Texas |
| • Charles Wright, Argyle, Texas | • Sharon Kerby, Salado, Texas |
| • Tommy Hays, Elgin, Texas | • Joe Kerby, Salado, Texas |
| • Shelia Klein, Klein, Texas | • Linda Broussard, Austin, Texas |
| • Theophilus Scales Jr., Cedar Creek, Texas | • Jan Haynes, Dallas, Texas |
| • Lane Hutchins, Fredericksburg, Texas | |

I. Race Date Requests for Class I Racetracks — Andrea Young, Bryan Brown, Drew Shubeck

Sam Houston Race Park

- Host a 28-day (or so) mixed meet (predominantly Quarter Horses) in June/July
- Eliminate its upcoming Thoroughbred meet scheduled to begin November 26, 2010

Retama Park

- Host 24 Thoroughbred/mixed days in August extending into October
 - Quarter Horse races in the beginning
 - Thoroughbred races at meet's end

Lone Star Park

- Host a 60-day Thoroughbred starting April 7 or April 14
- Host a Quarter Horse meet starting September 16, concluding on November 12

II. Summary of Industry Comment

Fewer opportunities for Arabians — Texas Arabian Breeders Association

Will have no opportunities to run in spring. Colorado runs a meet in the summer that typically has larger purses than race meets in Texas. If SHRP runs a mixed meet in the summer, people will not want to give up those better purses and more racing opportunities per week to stay and run in Texas. That leaves fall at Retama and Lone Star. (Ed Wilson)

No proposed calendar has been approved — Texas Horsemen's Partnership

A lot of proposals exist, but none have moved past the point of discussion. A track with allocated dates should be required to run those dates. Horsemen must be able to plan and they can only do that when they have reliable dates. Stressed the importance of the tracks being responsive to horsemen's reasonable requests for racing opportunities. (Marsha Rountree)

Need to work together — Texas HBPA, Texas Horsemen's Partnership

Noted that some of the alternative calendars address only one breed. Stressed the need to work together on issues. Not in favor of taking horsemen's money to fund racetracks. Mentioned the concept of license holders without tracks putting up some money for races. (Dr. Tommy Hays)

Summer dates or spring dates? We need both — Texas Quarter Horse Association

Early discussions had summer dates for Quarter Horses, but no spring dates. Adding spring dates and subtracting summer dates is not desirable. The Quarter Horses need opportunities in the spring and summer. (Rob Werstler)

Game is still changing — Texas Thoroughbred Association

Went to board with one plan that involved 21 Thoroughbred dates at SHRP, 60 days at LSP, and movement of purse money left over from the SHRP meet to LSP. The movement of the money would have allowed LSP to host a regionally competitive meet. However, at a subsequent meeting with tracks, SHRP had another game-changing proposal. SHRP now was proposing to run 27 Thoroughbred dates and in March, switching to mixed weekend days. The purses would be \$150,000 a day, leaving no money to transfer to LSP. Negotiations continue. (Dave Hooper)

III. Summary of Key Issues Discussed During Public and Stakeholder Comment

➤ Racing opportunities must be available in the spring.

All breeds need racing opportunities, and they need opportunities in the spring. For Quarter Horses, the spring and summer dates are imperative. Without spring and summer dates for Quarter Horses, the horsemen cannot stay in Texas.

➤ Opportunity to race is more important than higher purses.

Tracks need to have live meets, the same kind of meets held in 2010. The horsemen can work with smaller purses. Tracks cannot have simulcasting without live racing. Many valued opportunity over higher purse structures.

➤ Tracks should honor what they committed to do.

Perhaps the license should be revoked from a track that fails to run already approved dates. Horsemen plan based upon allocated dates. The elimination of dates by a track disrupts the business plan of the horsemen.

➤ Large purse structure may not be good for Texas Horsemen.

Higher purses will bring in out-of-state horsemen, potentially to the detriment of the smaller Texas horsemen who helped build the industry.

➤ Mixed meets are undesirable.

Difficult to manage the backside as both breeds will want stalls. Difficult to allocate simulcast revenue. The staff alternative calendar contemplates meets with 15 races a day. Could wear people out: bettors, horsemen, officials, etc.

➤ ***The high volume mixed meets are desirable.***

If Quarter Horses are grouped together and the Thoroughbreds are grouped together, the export signal could still be maximized.

➤ ***Designated organizations could better represent views of horsemen.***

Some horsemen feel that the designated organizations are not sufficiently representing their views.